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Marines Say Two Guards Allowed Russians to Roam U.S. Embassy

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WASHINGTON, March 27 — The Marine Corps charged today that two Marine guards at the American Embassy in Moscow allowed Soviet agents to spend hours roaming through some of the most sensitive sections of the embassy on "numerous occasions" last year.

In its most detailed public statement about the case, in which one of the marines is charged with espionage and the other is being held on suspicion of spying, the Marine Corps said the two guards worked as a team. One acted as a lookout while the other turned off the alarms being activated by the Soviet agents, who entered such areas as the defense attaché's office, the communications processing unit and "sensitive intelligence spaces," according to the Marine Corps.

Five Charges Added

The Marine Corps also charged that one of the guards, Sgt. Clayton J. Lonetree, had given Soviet agents blueprints to the American Embassies in Moscow and Vienna, classified documents from a bag of sensitive material supposed to be destroyed, and the identities, telephone numbers and addresses of "covert U.S. intelligence agents."

The disclosure of the charges came as the Marine Corps filed five additional charges against Sergeant Lonetree, bringing the total to 24, including espionage. They added new details to a case that Administration officials have termed one of the most potentially serious security breaches in a recent period that has already had a series of damaging spy cases. Michael V. Stuhff, the lead defense attorney for Sergeant Lonetree, said his client would "absolutely deny these allegations."

Administration officials said they were particularly concerned about the reported breach because the Moscow embassy was used as the command post for some of the Central Intelligence Agency's most closely guarded intelligence gathering operations.

The Marine Corps charges that Sergeant Lonetree collaborated with the second marine, Cpl. Arnold Bracy, in escorting Soviet agents through the compound in early 1986. The two men later lied to their superiors about what had set off alarms in the communications processing unit, which handles the coded transmission of the embassy's most sensitive messages, according to the Marine Corps.

Two people familiar with the case

said the allegations about the Soviet agents in the United States Embassy were based on detailed admissions by Corporal Bracy. The two said he had since recanted his confession, saying investigators had given him an elaborate false story to tell so they could build a case against Sergeant Lonetree.

Sergeant Lonetree's family has consistently denied that he engaged in espionage.

A Marine Corps spokesman would not comment on whether Corporal Bracy had withdrawn his confession, but Administration officials said they were skeptical about his suggestion that the story about Soviet agents entering the embassy had been fabricated.

Soviet Agents Named

The Marine Corps said that Sergeant Lonetree conspired with Violetta Seina, a Soviet employee of the embassy who Administration officials said seduced him and recruited him as a spy. According to the charges, Sergeant Lonetree then worked with two Soviet agents, identified in the Marine charges as Aleksiy G. Yefimov, or Uncle Sasha, and Yuriy V. Lysov, or George.

According to the Marine Corps, Corporal Bracy was paid \$1,000 by Sergeant Lonetree. It was the first official report that money had played a part in the case. Administration officials have said previously that Corporal Bracy, like his colleague, had been seduced by a Soviet national who worked in the embassy.

Sergeant Lonetree and Corporal Bracy are being held in military custody in Quantico, Va. Sergeant Lonetree was arrested last December and brought back to the United States, where he was charged with espionage and related counts. Corporal Bracy was arrested this week at the Marine base in Twentynine Palms, Calif., where he had been transferred.

They are awaiting decisions about whether their commanding officer will convene court-martial proceedings. Espionage charges, if prosecuted in the Federal court system, carry a maximum sentence of life in prison. Because the cases are being handled in the military justice system, the charge of espionage carries a death penalty.

The charges against Sergeant Lonetree said he escorted "unauthorized personnel from the U.S.S.R." into the embassy, "allowing them to peruse said areas and equipment contained therein for periods of one to four hours at a time; during which time Sergeant Bracy acted as a lookout, while monitoring, silencing and securing various alarms which were set off in the em-

bassy spaces."

The charges said that the two conspired to allow Soviet agents to enter the embassy from January to March 1986.

The charges did not specify whether the two guards helped the Soviet agents gain access to such items as the Central Intelligence Agency's files, or key cards, used to encode and decode communications.

In the espionage case involving John A. Walker Jr., the former Navy warrant officer, an associate, Jerry A. Whitworth, gave Soviet agents extensive access to key cards used by the Navy. This allowed Soviet intelligence to read huge quantities of secret messages.

The charges against Sergeant Lonetree assert that the guards allowed the Soviet agents access to "instruments, appliances, documents, and writings" within the embassy.

According to the charges, the communications processing unit contains "cryptographic information."

Adm. Stansfield Turner, President Carter's Director of Central Intelligence, said the charges suggested significant damage had been done to American intelligence. "Anytime you have the enemy mucking around in your crypto, you've got a potentially serious problem," he said.

Admiral Turner said the problem of embassy security was of long standing. He recalled that while he was director of central intelligence, he recommended that everyone involved in building the new American embassy in Moscow be given a polygraph, or lie-detector, test. The Pentagon, he said, refused to allow the Marine guards to be subjected to the test, which is routine for C.I.A. officers.

Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger, on the Cable News Network program "Newsmaker," to be aired Saturday, said the Administration would be re-examining all of its procedures for security at the embassy.

"We are, indeed, going to investigate just as thoroughly as we can," he said. "And not just these two, but the whole system. We're going to look at the whole thing, the way they're chosen, the training and the way the Soviets will continually try to subvert them, and try to block that."